

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Please amend the drawing figure as originally filed by replacing that figure with the figure provided on the Replacement Sheet appended to this Reply. An Annotated Sheet, showing changes made to the originally filed drawing figure, is also appended to this Reply.

REMARKS

Claims 4, 6-7, 9-11, and 17-18 remain in this application, and claims 1-3, 5, 8, 12-16, and 19-21 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The documents referred to in section 2 on page 2 of the Office Action have already been considered and made of record by the Examiner.

The informalities in the drawings discussed by the Examiner in section 3 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action are eliminated by the drawing amendments referred to above.

The cross-reference made in specification paragraph 0002 is completed above.

The change suggested by the Examiner in section 6 on page 3 of the Office Action is made in each of amended claims 4, 6, and 9-11 above. All claims remaining in this application are considered fully in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

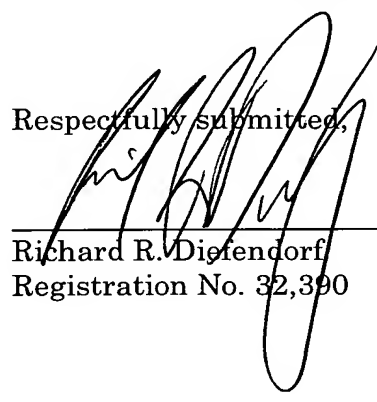
Claim 17 is rewritten in the manner referred to in section 10 on page 5 of the Office Action, while claims 4, 6, and 9-11 are rewritten above in the manner referred to in section 11 on page 5. Each of these claims should be allowable as a result. Claim 7 depends on claim 6, while claim 18 depends on claim 17, moreover, and should be allowable as well. All other claims previously appearing in this application are canceled, and the application should now be in allowable condition.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.52900US).

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Respectfully submitted,



Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 32,390

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RRD:rd

